

CITY of BEAVERTON

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLL SHOWS SUPPORT FOR MULTI-PURPOSE VENUE IN BEAVERTON

- Majority of Beaverton Voters are Interested in a Facility for Sports, Concerts and Community Events as Part of an Improved Downtown -

Beaverton, Oregon (September 10, 2009) – Mayor Denny Doyle announced today the results of a recent survey of Beaverton voters that shows a **strong majority interest in a multi-purpose facility for sports, concerts and community events in downtown Beaverton (68%)**. The survey of 355 registered voters was conducted August 31 and September 1, 2009 by Moore Information, a regionally based opinion research firm with more than 25 years of national experience.

The survey also indicated that Beaverton voters are optimistic, with **68% responding that things in Beaverton are going in the right direction**. At the same time, **82% of residents responded that it was important to improve Beaverton's downtown**.

"Throughout our visioning project and now in this survey, the people of Beaverton have told us that it's important to pursue opportunities to transform our downtown into a vibrant central core," said **Mayor Doyle**. "Given these tough economic times we are all facing, Beaverton is very fortunate to have a private partner to help get this process started. This project would be a part of the fabric of our community – not just a ballpark – but a much needed community gathering space for family activities and events."

The survey of Beaverton's registered voters demonstrated that two-out-of-three voters support a multi-purpose facility. Survey respondents also demonstrated a strong interest in attending concerts (78%), community celebrations (63%), sporting events (62%) and baseball games (61%) at such a facility. A majority of survey participants (58%) were also positive about the possibility of the Beavers baseball team moving to Beaverton. A large number said that they would be likely to attend an event at the multi-purpose facility (73%).

The potential multi-use venue would be part of a larger development plan for the City of Beaverton, a result of the Beaverton Community Vision project. As part of the survey, the City also polled voters about their interest in other elements of a downtown that would be part of that plan. Those results indicate a strong interest in more restaurants (84%), an easily walk-able downtown (82%), summer concerts and festivals (79%), more available parking (77%), affordable housing (75%), retail shops (69%), after work entertainment opportunities (63%), a performing arts center (62%), art galleries (60%) and multi-cultural celebrations or events (59%).

A potential funding plan for the multi-purpose facility finds support from nearly six-in-ten voters: 57% are positive about funding the facility through a combination of public and private funds, while 35% have a negative reaction and 8% have no opinion. When asked about a willingness to fund the project with an increase in property taxes and fees, half the respondents were willing to pay \$5 per month more to support financing through a public-private partnership (50% support, 46% opposed, 4% didn't know). In the summary report, Bob Moore of Moore Information states: "Given the current economic crisis facing the country, the fact that more voters support than oppose the property tax increase may be surprising to some. This is the highest level of support for a general tax increase seen in any Moore information poll conducted in the past 12 months." Mayor Doyle said: "In the current state of our economy, I'm encouraged that so many voters think this is an important opportunity for the City of Beaverton to pursue." A copy of the results is available at www.beavertonoregon.gov.

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